



# WFP DPR Korea Country Brief

## Highlights

- Critical funding constraints have forced WFP to exclude 190,000 children from assistance, starting in November 2017.
- WFP DPR Korea’s operation urgently requires USD 25.5 million for the next six months.
- The negative effects of the latest UN Security Council and bilateral sanctions are evident in WFP’s ongoing operation, including a disruption in banking services and international procurement of goods and services.

## WFP Assistance

Nutrition Support for Children and Women and Strengthening Community Capacity to Reduce Disaster Risks	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200907 and T-ICSP* (July 2016 - Dec 2018)	128.6 m	44.6 m (59%)	25.5 m (56%)

\*November 2017 – April 2018

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200907

WFP’s protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200907 was launched in July 2016 for 2.5 years to support the Government in achieving Zero Hunger by 2030. Following the implementation of Country Strategic Plan, WFP will implement a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TiCSP) in DPR Korea from January 2018. The ongoing PRRO 200907 has been accordingly adjusted to reflect the new programme structure for the remainder of the project duration (January - December 2018).

The PRRO has two components:

- Nutrition assistance which aims to reduce maternal and child undernutrition and contribute to breaking the intergenerational cycle of undernutrition by addressing the first “1000 days of life” with the provision of locally produced fortified foods to children under five, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers; and
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), which aims to achieve food security by minimizing the impact of natural disasters, addressing humanitarian needs and promoting sustainable recovery.

In addition, WFP allocates resources for emergency response as needed (mainly floods and droughts).

WFP’s operation contributes to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 - Zero Hunger, SDG 17 – partnerships, and to the outcomes of the United Nations Strategic Framework for DPRK (2017-2021). It also addresses the needs and priorities of the Humanitarian Country Team in DPR Korea.



Credit: WFP/Sven Thelin  
Caption: Children in a kindergarten in South Hamngyong province. WFP aims to reach 550,000 children every month through the nutrition support programme with a provision of fortified cereals and biscuits produced at WFP-supported local factories, and containing important micronutrients, fats and proteins crucial for their healthy growth.

## In Numbers

**10.3 million** people in DPRK are believed to be undernourished

**826,874**  
People Assisted  
October 2017



## Operational Updates

- In October 2017, WFP reached 826,874 people, through nutrition support (the regular nutrition assistance programme and rapid response for drought) and DRR activities, and delivered 2,631mt of food.
- WFP continued providing scaled-down rations (66 percent) of fortified cereals (66g per child, 132g per woman) and biscuits (40g per child).
- WFP requires USD 25.5 million for the coming six months and currently has less than 50 percent of required resources available.
- As a result of critical funding shortfalls, WFP will exclude 190,000 children from assistance starting from November 2017 and may further reduce geographical coverage in January 2018. This support cannot be resumed unless new funding is assured for six months. This will disrupt WFP's lifesaving interventions in DPR Korea and potentially affect the expected outcomes of the programme.
- Considering recurring disasters, especially floods, in disaster-prone areas, WFP started the implementation of seven autumn Disaster Risk Reduction projects in October 2017. Activities included tree planting, rehabilitation and reconstruction of waterside embankments and reservoirs. The objective is to prepare for and mitigate disaster risks by empowering communities, intended to improve agriculture and food security in the targeted areas. The DRR activities will end in November 2017.

## Challenges

- Funding constraints remain the principal challenge. WFP requires USD 25.5 million for the next six months to avoid any pipeline break in assistance. It is essential for WFP's DPR Korea operation to have a continued commitment from its donors, as it takes on average six months (including procurement, shipping and local food production) from the date of confirmation of funding to when fortified foods reach the beneficiaries. The ongoing constraints in resourcing have already affected WFP's lifesaving interventions in DPR Korea.

## Partnerships

- The National Coordinating Committee (NCC) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is WFP's implementing partner in DPR Korea. This partnership facilitates WFP to access WFP's operational areas for programme implementation and monitoring. As an implementing partner, the Government contributes by providing fortified food production facilities in 11 local factories, warehouses, office space, national staff, transportation of food and non-food items from port to the factories, and by distributing fortified foods directly to the WFP-supported institutions. In 2016, the Government of DPR Korea covered a total estimated cost of USD 7.3 million.
- WFP is part of the Humanitarian Country Team and co-chairs the DPR Korea Food Security and Agriculture Sector Working Group and the Nutrition Sector Working Group.

## Country Background & Strategy



DPRK has experienced widespread food shortages since the mid-1990s. Despite efforts to achieve agricultural self-sufficiency, the country does not produce enough food to feed its population. Production is largely constrained by insufficient arable land, over-cultivation, a scarcity of quality fertilisers and pesticides, low mechanisation and low levels of irrigation. These factors leave the agricultural system prone to climate shocks. In 2017, DPRK had a Global Hunger Index score of 28.2, classified as "serious".

The 2012 National Nutrition Survey confirmed that the nutritional status of children had improved since 2009, with chronic malnutrition falling from 32.4 to 27.9 percent. Nonetheless, WFP's 2014 mid-term review of PRRO 200532 revealed that 81 percent of DPRK's population do not have acceptable diversity in their diet. People consume 25 percent less protein and 30 percent less fat than required for a healthy life, according to international standards. One in three children under five years of age, and almost half of the children between 12 and 23 months of age, are anaemic. In 2015, WFP conducted a food security and nutrition assessment among children in WFP-supported nurseries, which showed that a 25.4 percent stunting prevalence in WFP-supported nurseries is at moderate to high levels.

In support of the Government's efforts to reduce hunger, WFP provides nutrition assistance to children and women, and implements Food for Disaster Risk Reduction (FDRR) activities.

WFP has been present in DPRK since 1995.

Population: **24.8 million**

Chronic malnutrition: **25.4% of children between 6-59 months in WFP-assisted nurseries**

## Donors in 2017

Canada, CERF, France, Liechtenstein, Russian Federation, and Switzerland

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